



AHS Parent Newsletter: Friday, Oct. 20

Principal's Message

First quarter grades have now been recorded in the books and report cards are viewable online in AERIES. Please review your child's grades with them and make any arrangements or plans should they need to address their progress in any of their classes. Students needing to improve their progress can seek assistance from their teachers, utilize their SMART periods, and/or attend a math tutorial after school in the library. I also recommend that parents establish a space in the house (not the student's bedroom where there are too many distractions) and a time daily where the student is expected to sit and attend to their studies. If a student says that they have finished their work, then they can organize their backpack and folders. Should they have done that then the student could be expected to read. Establishing this same place, same time rule helps those students who have yet to develop the habits needed to be a successful student. These first quarter grades represent your child's academic progress thus far this year. These grades are not the grades that will be noted on their transcripts. Those would be the semester grades that they will finalize in December and recorded on transcripts the first week of January.

First Quarter Data

First quarter grades are always my first opportunity to do a data dive to see how we are serving students and how students are performing. I generally look at the percentage of Ds and Fs earned by students and a key indicator of places where we may need to give some attention. This first quarter, 5.2% of the grades were Ds or Fs (down .7% from last year) with 1.9% of those being failing grades (this is a reduction of .6% from last year). That means that 98.1% of the overall grades earned were passing grades. These percentages are slightly better than first quarter grades that I have been monitoring over my 10 years at AHS. In that time, the highest percentage of Ds/Fs earned was 10.8% in fall of 2013 and the lowest, before now, was 6.3% in the fall of 2017. Due to Distance Learning and COVID, we did not track these percentages for the Spring of 2020 nor the 2020-2021 school year when we were all on distance learning.

Now that we have this data, we will determine how many students from each grade level earned a failing grade, how many earned two failing grades and so on. We will look to classroom teachers, counselors, and intervention leads to work with the 8.4% of students who have earned Ds or Fs in one or two classes to ensure that many of those grades become passing grades by the semester at the end of December when grades get recorded on a student's transcript. We have 18 students who have failed 3 or more classes. This constitutes 1% of our student population. Those students will be served through our Coordinated Services Team (COST), and some upper class students may be referred to Island High so that they may work on credit recovery before it is too late.

Counselor Classroom Visits

Next week counselors will be visiting freshmen in their first semester 'Navigating Life' classes to talk to students about their Academic plans. There will be a power point presentation and students will be provided instructions on how to enter these plans in Aeries. Students should refer to the course catalog online, the worksheet and written instructions provided to them while creating their plans. Students will have until Thursday, November 2nd to enter their plans in Aeries. Once the window closes, students will be unable to add any information. Students will then have an opportunity to make changes to their plans during course selection. Parents will be able to view their student's plans in Aeries by going to 'Classes' and selecting 'Academic Plan.' Please make sure that your student brings a charged chrome book to school.

Students who have the 'Navigating Life' class second semester will receive this lesson and have the opportunity to create their own Academic Plans in January. If you would like to view the power point presentation, you can access it by going to our school's website and accessing the 'Counseling Office' section under the 'Students' tab. Once you are there, click on the Counseling Office Grade level Curriculum for 9th grade.

Inquiry Process

I just want to let you know a bit about the process when you email me with a concern or inquiry about your child's teacher or something in the classroom. The first thing I do is approach the teacher and ask them to contact you unless you have indicated otherwise. I often forward the email. Should you not want your name or your child's name provided to the teacher, then please indicate that in your email to me. Sometimes, I will respond letting you know that our ability to process the concern and provide a solution may be limited when the teacher does not know all the variables. More often though, I can edit the email so that the concern can be shared without your name or your child's name or gender being provided. This, of course, can make things more challenging for the teacher to address, but I want to respect your wishes and let you know that resolution may be complicated. It all depends on the variables involved. Best course of action is to take your concern directly to the teacher and then involve administration when you have not received a return communication or you are not satisfied with the resolution.

AP Exam Registration

It is that time of the year again to order and pay for AP exams. Payments and registrations are due by November 8. Cost for each exam has gone up to \$98. Beginning Monday, October 23, Mr. Lee will have three, 30-minute windows open until November 4 to collect payments, cash, or check only. These windows of time will be:

Mornings: 7:45am to 8:15am

Lunch time: 12:30pm to 1:00pm

After school: 3:30pm to 4:00pm (except Wednesdays which will be 2:30pm to 3:00pm)

He will set-up just outside main lobby, right inside of the big pillars on Central Ave to take payments and sign-ups. There are no refunds as determined by the College Board, and there will be a \$40 late fee for all exams ordered after November 15. Ms. Gregor has posted the forms online on our school website.

<https://ahs.alamedaunified.org/student-resources/advanced-placement-information>

SENIORS: The Jostens representative will be in front of the Kofman Building on Thursday, October 26, during lunch for cap/gown and graduation announcement orders. Please be sure to place your graduation order at this time or place your online at Jostens.com no later than October 26. If you have any questions please feel free to contact Jostens [925-838-1835](tel:925-838-1835) or martin.oliveira@jostens.com

Senior Banquet

Speaking of seniors, tickets are now on sale for the Senior Banquet. This is traditionally a bay cruise and dinner for the seniors where they present the senior video and senior superlatives. It's one of the highlight activities for seniors. This year's banquet will occur on Saturday, November 4. Tickets are on sale during lunch in the Hive from now until Wednesday, November 1, and cost \$126 with ASB and \$133 without. On the night of the banquet, students need to arrive for processing no later than 6:30 pm and the boat will leave Alameda at 7:00 pm. We will all arrive back by 11:00 pm and all the staff who have volunteered their Saturday night will be exhausted, so we would appreciate if parents are there by 11:00 pm to collect their child. We adults get irritable and spiteful when we are waiting on parents well after 11:00 pm. Think of us like Cinderella's carriage; we're wonderful until a certain time and after that we're just rotting squash.

My mention of the senior banquet is a caution for any senior who may be on the ineligible list due to unserved detentions, excessive absences (excused and unexcused), excessive tardies, and suspensions. If you wait too long to make-up a detention, you may miss out on the opportunity to buy a ticket for the Banquet. Tickets sales will end by the Wednesday prior to the event and if a senior has not completed their detention(s) prior to that date, then they will not be permitted to attend. Students can check with Ms. Snowden about their eligibility status and what they can do, if possible, to be removed from the ineligible list should they be on it.

Please have a restful weekend. If you have any questions or concerns, you may email me at rithurnburn@alamedaunified.org or you can call the school at (510) 337 – 7022 and I will try to address them.

Sincerely,
Robert Ithurnburn
Hornet Pride!



ALAMEDA HIGH SCHOOL



Weekly Bulletin

Monday, October 23

Periods 0-6

Tuesday, October 24

Periods 0,1,2,5,smart,6

SMART Trinity College-Dublin, Ireland

College Career Center

6:00-8:00pm College Application Night

Media Center Pit

Wednesday, October 25

Periods 0,1,3,4,6

2:35pm Gonzaga University

College Career Center

Thursday, October 26

Periods 0,2,3,4,smart,5

Lunchtime Jostens Cap/Gown/Announcement Orders

Front of Kofman Building

SMART Loyola Marymount & Mount Holyoke

College Career Center

6:00-8:00pm College Application Night

Media Center Pit

6:30pm Women's Flag Football vs Berkeley

Thompson Field

Friday, October 27

Periods 0-6

4:30pm Football JV vs Kennedy Fremont

Thompson Field

7:00pm Football Varsity vs Kennedy Fremont

Thompson Field

(Senior Football Game)